

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EB-03 OES-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 L-01 PRS-01 /038 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:GGBROWN:PM

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA/IAI:WBSMITH (DRAFT)

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R 111430Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053990

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: ESSO EXPLORATION IN RED SEA

1. MR. DAHL DUFF OF ESSO MIDDLE EAST, A DIVISION OF EXXON CORP., CALLED AT DEPARTMENT MARCH 7. MAJOR TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WAS ESSO'S RECENTLY ACQUIRED CONCESSION IN RED SEA. AT THE TIME OF CONVERSATION, MAP WAS NOT AVAILABLE BUT IT LOOKS ON OUR MAPS AS THOUGH AREA RUNS SOUTH FROM ZEIT BAY (ABOVE HURGADA) DOWN EGYPTIAN COAST TO ABOUT QUSEIR AND DUE EAST TO MEDIAN RED SEA BORDER WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND UP THIS LINE TO TIP SINAI AND WEST TO ZEIT BAY.

2. ESSO WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH MINISTER PETROLEUM HILAL THE POSSIBILITY OF GAINING GOE PERMISSION FOR ESSO'S SMALL SEISMIC SHIP TO PROCEED FROM MEDITERRANEAN TO RED SEA THROUGH SUEZ CANAL. ESSO WILL EXPLAIN TO GOE MAJOR SAVINGS SUEZ TRANSIT WOULD MAKE FOR GOE IN TIME AND EVENTUAL COST.

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3. DUFF ALSO RAISED QUESTION ABOUT SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN

THE AREA CLOSE TO SINAI. WE EXPLAINED PROBLEMS AND NOTED
ISRAELI SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE WATERS CONTIGUOUS TO OCCUPIED
SINAI. IT APPEARS TO US THAT MAJOR PORTION OF ESSO CONCES-
SION AREA IS NOT IN AREA WHICH ISRAEL WOULD CONSIDER SENSI-
TIVE AND THAT ESSO WOULD AVOID THAT AREA FOR TIME BEING.
INGERSOLL

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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